

Online Advanced Placement (AP) Courses with Pearson K-12 Virtual Learning Powered by Florida Virtual School (FLVS)

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. What are Pearson K-12 Virtual Learning and Florida Virtual School?

Pearson K-12 Virtual Learning is an educational services company that partnered with Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to represent FLVS in Indiana. Pearson representatives will be providing information to Indiana schools and students about signing up for FLVS classes. FLVS provides online courses throughout the state of Florida, the United States and even around the globe.

2. What role will FLVS fill in Indiana schools?

IDOE is partnering with FLVS to **supplement** current AP course offerings throughout the state of Indiana. Participation may be different for many schools.

3. Are Indiana schools required to offer AP courses?

Yes! Indiana law requires every high school to offer at least two AP courses, one each in Math and Science
IC 20-30-10-4: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar30/ch10.html>,
IC 20-36-3-5: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title20/ar36/ch3.html>

4. Is FLVS accredited and are its AP courses College Board approved?

Yes! FLVS is an accredited public school in Florida, and all of its AP courses have been approved through the College Board's Course Audit process.

Indiana schools may list online AP courses as part of their official AP offerings each academic year by selecting the authorized online learning courses offered to students through the AP Course Audit Web site.

To learn how to add FLVS AP courses to a school's College Board audit-approved list go here:
http://www.collegeboard.com/html/apcourseaudit/online_learning.html

5. Are schools still allowed to use other providers for virtual AP courses?

Yes. The agreement between IDOE and FLVS does NOT preclude a school or student from utilizing other accredited providers of virtual College Board approved AP courses.

6. What are some ways schools will be using FLVS courses?

Schools have mentioned using FLVS AP courses in each of the following ways:

- (a) To meet the state requirement of offering at least two AP Math and Science courses
- (b) To provide additional sections of AP courses they currently offer but do not have enough staff to accommodate student demand
- (c) To provide AP courses (beyond Math and Science) where there is student demand but not a qualified teacher or enough demand to warrant adding a full class
- (d) To provide more appropriately challenging courses for High Ability students
- (e) To supplement general course offerings
- (f) To provide multiple AP courses for multiple students to accommodate diverse course demand

7. What AP courses are offered by FLVS?

- AP Art History
- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science A
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Psychology
- AP Spanish
- AP Statistics
- AP United States Government and Politics
- AP United States History
- AP World History

8. Why is IDOE partnering with FLVS?

IDOE selected FLVS through a competitive RFP process. FLVS was selected because it

- (a) has significant, data-based evidence of student achievement on AP exams,
- (b) delivers courses asynchronously and offers flexible course start and end dates, and
- (c) offers the best price under this delivery model (based on providers that submitted a proposal to IDOE) coupled with demonstrable student success on AP exams.

9. What does Asynchronous mean?

The students and parents may access the course content and grades 24/7; there is no set time for daily instruction.

10. How does Flexible course start and end date work?

FLVS allows students to begin and end courses at their own pace which gives both schools and students that greatest opportunity to accommodate demand. For these AP courses, however, students will need to complete all work before the May AP exams.

11. Who will be teaching the courses?

Courses are taught by highly-qualified FLVS teachers (according to NCLB standards) who are certified within the subjects they teach.

12. Do students communicate with a teacher?

Yes. FLVS teachers communicate regularly with students and their parents throughout the course.

13. Will students that take the FLVS AP courses receive Indiana high school credit?

Yes, they may. Schools may award (and are encouraged to do so) high school credit for students who successfully complete FLVS AP courses.

14. How do students sign up for FLVS courses?

Students should sign up for FLVS courses through their school. Pearson (Prentice Hall) sales representatives are working for FLVS throughout Indiana, and schools may work with them to establish student registration and invoicing. (Please see the contact information found at the end of this document).

15. How are grades determined with FLVS courses?

FLVS teachers conduct the entire course including instruction, assessments, feedback and grades; they will give the students a percentage grade for each semester and report those percentage grades to each student's school. Indiana schools, however, are the credit-awarding schools of record, so each school must translate that percentage score into a grade that is commensurate to its grading system and may award appropriate high school credit. This may be done by an appropriate school official, such as a counselor, AP coordinator, teacher, or other personnel as determined by the school.

16. How much does each course cost?

Total cost per semester is \$400 (1.0 Indiana high school credit per semester), or \$800 for a year-long class (2.0 Indiana high school credits).

Cost includes the following:

- (a) teacher (including a high-touch instructional model and student progress and final reports),
- (b) books and materials (including postage for mailing materials to students),
- (c) AP Exam Review (for courses that have it), and
- (d) Site Coordinator training (if requested).

17. What is the role of a Site Coordinator?

A *Site Coordinator* is a local school official who helps students taking FLVS classes during the school day to problem-solve technical issues by working with FLVS. Having a *Site Coordinator* is strongly recommended by IDOE for Indiana schools using FLVS courses for a group of students during the school day.

18. Is Site Coordinator training available?

Yes. Part of the agreement with FLVS includes **free** *Site Coordinator* training for any participating schools that request the training. IDOE highly recommends taking advantage of this opportunity.

19. Who will pay for these courses?

Schools **must** pay for these courses **if they are NOT**:

- (a) providing the requisite courses for students to earn a Core 40 Diploma, or
- (b) offering AP courses that enable a student to earn a Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma, or
- (c) offering at least two College Board approved AP math and science courses (minimum one each).

If schools are meeting each of the aforementioned requirements, the costs for these courses **may** be funded through any of the following avenues or a combination thereof: (*listed in no particular order*)

- (a) Average Daily Membership funds,
- (b) Academic Honors Diploma funds,
- (c) High Ability funds (for identified HA students),
- (d) Parents/Guardians,
- (e) Fundraising,
- (f) Community Partnerships,
- (g) or other Grants

20. Who administers the AP exams in May for students that take FLVS courses?

Indiana schools must administer the AP exams for students from their schools who wish to take the end of year AP exams; FLVS does not conduct this aspect of the course.

Additionally, each participating student's parent, or the student if at least 18, will be asked to sign a waiver that allows his or her Indiana school to send FLVS the student AP exam scores. This part of the program is vital for IDOE's analysis of how Indiana students enrolled in FLVS courses perform on the AP exams.

21. For next year's AP exams (*May, 2011*), will students who complete FLVS AP courses be eligible for the same AP exam fee reductions that other Indiana students qualify for from the state?

Yes, if they take and complete the courses before the AP exam dates in May.

IDOE is hopeful the 2011 Indiana General Assembly will continue to fund AP Math and Science exams at the same level as it did in the 2009 biennial budget session and that the federal support for eligible Free or Reduced lunch students' AP exams will continue; this would include AP courses completed through FLVS. IDOE will communicate definitive funding information for each examination year at the appropriate times.

22. When may Indiana students begin registering for FLVS AP courses for the 2010-11 academic year?

Students may register now.

23. Whom do I contact about learning more and signing up students for these courses?

(a) **Lana Wright** (Pearson)

lane.wright@Pearson.com

888-977-7900 ext. 6277, or

480-457-6277

(b) **Lisa Fraine** (Florida Virtual School - FLVS)

lfraine@flvs.net

386-290-3995

Thanks,

Jon Gubera

AP Director

Indiana Department of Education

jgubera@doe.in.gov

317-234-2134